



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

rongys et coulouriez de moeures, ciesches et aultres fruits tirans de legier a corruption, pour et au lieu de aigres de vin."¹⁶ *Aigre* in this passage is incorrectly defined as "ferment" by Godefroy,¹⁷ though Thierry, p. 274, correctly renders it "vinaigre de bière." Compare the English use of *alegar* and *beeregar*, cited in the *New English Dictionary*, s. v., which dates *alegar* from 1542, and *beeregar* from 1500. *Alegar* is defined as "sour ale, or vinegar made from the acetous fermentation of ale." *Beeregar* is a similar liquor formed from beer.

MARY B. ROWE.

Johns Hopkins University.

VERSES ATTRIBUTED TO VOLTAIRE

I.—In 1869, Paul Lacroix published in the *Intermédiaire des Chercheurs et des Curieux* (Col. 135) a picturesque epigram, which Voltaire is said to have dictated the day before his death:

Vers dictés le 29 mai 1778.

Tandis que j'ai vécu l'on m'a vu hautement
Aux badauds effarés dire mon sentiment;
Je veux le dire encor dans les royaumes sombres,
S'ils ont des préjugés j'en guérirai les ombres.

Moland (xxxiii, p. 438) states that he does not believe that this epigram is by Voltaire. Yet, it is authentic, but it is not Voltaire's *last* verse. It has not been noticed that these four lines occur at the end of the well-known *Épître à Boileau ou mon Testament*,¹ which dates from March 1769, nine years before Voltaire's death.

II.—The *Voltairiana inedita aus den königlichen Archiven zu Berlin*, published by Wilhelm Mangold (Berlin, 1901) gives, on p. 38, a poem entitled *Le procès du Fard*, dedicated to the Duchesse de Gontaut and ascribed to Voltaire. The editor notes in his Preface that it is not Voltairian in tone. "Der Umstand dass das Gedicht nicht gerade hervorragend geistreich ist, darf nicht abhalten es Voltaire zuzuschreiben; denn nicht alles was er geschrieben hat, steht auf gleicher Höhe." This poem, however, has long been known as the work of Gentil Bernard. It occurs in

¹⁶ A. Thierry, *Recueil de monuments inédits de l'histoire du tiers état* (1870), iv, p. 276.

¹⁷ Complément, s. v. *aigre*.

¹ Moland, x, p. 402. The version of this *Épître* in the *Almanach des Muses* of 1770 (p. 5) contains a few uncollected minor variants.

his *Œuvres* (1823, p. 260.—1884, p. 310) and, moreover, he dedicated other poetry to the Duchesse de Gontaut, whereas her name does not appear in Voltaire's correspondence or in his other works.

III.—In the same *Voltaireiana inedita* is found (p. 47) a small poem entitled: *Vers de Mr de V. à Mr le Comte D. sur le refus qui lui a été fait de revenir en France.*

Par votre humeur le monde est gouverné,
 Vos volontés font le calme et l'orage;
 Vous vous riez de me voir confiné
 Loin de la cour, au fond de mon village.
 N'est ce donc rien que d'être à soi,
 D'être sans soins, de veiller sans emploi,²
 D'avoir dompté la crainte et l'espérance?
 Ah! Si le ciel, qui me traite si bien,
 Avait pitié de vous et de la France,
 Votre bonheur serait égal au mien!

These verses had already been printed in de Luchet's *Histoire littéraire de M. de Voltaire* (1781, V, p. 311). They were addressed to the Count d'Argenson, familiarly called "*la Chèvre*": In an eighteenth-century manuscript, in my possession, *Recueil de Pièces fugitives tant en prose qu'en vers*, they are said to have been composed by Voltaire but sent to M. d'Argenson by M. de Maurepas, when he was banished from the Court through Mme de Pompadour's influence.

Voltaire's editors have rejected it from his collected works, notwithstanding repeated contemporary attributions, because Voltaire denied having written it in his letter of September 13, 1756 to the Countess de Lutzelbourg.³ "Je suis bien étonné qu'on m'attribue le compliment à *la Chèvre*; c'est une pièce faite du temps du Cardinal de Richelieu. Je ne suis point au fond de mon *village*, comme le dit le compliment; et il s'en faut beaucoup que j'aie à me plaindre de cette *Chèvre*." In fact, except for the omission of four lines and two or three minor changes, this *compliment* is entirely copied from a sonnet of Maynard: (*Œuvres*, 1646, p. 31.—*Œuvres*, 1888, III, p. 31):

Par vos humeurs le monde est gouverné,
 Vos volontés font le calme et l'orage., etc.

IV.—*An Epître attributed to Voltaire.*—In vol. x (p. 230) of

² M. Mangold's text is here manifestly incorrect. These two verses read in other mss:

Mais n'est ce rien de se voir *tout* à soi,
 D'être sans soins, de *vieillir* sans emploi, . . .

³ See *Bengesco*, iv, p. 309.

the Moland edition of Voltaire's works is found an *Epître: A Samuel Bernard, au nom de Madame de Fontaine-Martel*.

C'est Mercredi que je soupai chez vous,
Et que, sortant des plaisirs de la table,
Bientôt couchée, un sommeil prompt et doux
Me fit présent d'un songe délectable, etc.

For the first time this poem was inserted in Voltaire's works in the Kehl edition (1784, vol. XIII, p. 19) and classified under the year 1716.⁴ However, in their *Eclaircissements, Additions et Corrections* (vol. LXX, p. 516) the editors state that they had "de fortes raisons de croire que l'*Epître à Samuel Bernard* n'est pas de Voltaire. On ne l'avait laissé passer d'abord que dans la supposition que l'auteur avoit voulu se déguiser tout à fait, sous un nom emprunté, et il faut convenir qu'il n'aurait pu mieux donner le change qu'en faisant des vers communs et insignifiants."

It is to be regretted that the Kehl edition does not mention more explicitly what "serious reasons" were discovered for doubting Voltaire's authorship, for this would have prevented later editors from including it in his works. The suggestion that Voltaire would have written intentionally a weakly versified and common-place poem to hide his authorship, can, in the absence of all evidence, only be a gratuitous affirmation. A more weighty reason than its poetical weakness for not attributing this *Epître* to Voltaire is the fact that it occurs in the *Œuvres de Grécourt* (1802.—vol. I, p. 148) with another title, *Epître à Monsieur Croizat, après sa maladie*. The text of the poem makes it clear that the words "après sa maladie"—lacking in the version printed in Voltaire's works—refer to the circumstances in which it was written. Pluto depicts his kingdom as an abode of happiness, but adds:

Mais un mortel m'embarasse beaucoup,
Aussi je veux redoubler ses années:
Chaque escadron le revendiquerait;
La jalousie est au repos funeste.
Venant ici, quel trouble il causerait!
Il est là-haut très-heureux, qu'il y reste.

In the *Œuvres de Grécourt* the following lines—which are lacking in the works of Voltaire also—end the poem:

Je sais qui c'est, et je vais lui mander.
Je vous l'écris: Je serai fort contente
Si son dessein peut ainsi s'accorder
Avec les vœux de votre humble servante.

From all this it results that the *Epître à Samuel Bernard*, ascribed to Voltaire, is only a truncated version of de Grécourt's *Epître à Monsieur Croizat*.

G. L. VAN ROOSBROECK.

University of Minnesota.

⁴ Cf. Bengesco.—*Bibliographie de Voltaire*, I, p. 210.